

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Emily and I am a master of public health candidate at the Yale School of Public Health. My research focuses on health equity and environmental health justice.

I am pursuing a degree in public health because of inequities that I saw while working as a medical scribe in an emergency room. I saw so many people come to the ER with preventable conditions because they couldn't access primary care due to their lack of health insurance. This not only led to worse health outcomes for these patients, but also utilized more resources in the ER, limiting those available for other patients, and cost the healthcare system that I worked for more money in the long run. It is a simple yet imperative initiative to get as many people as possible access to medical assistance. Expanding Medicaid through SB284 is an important first step to saving lives and reducing healthcare costs.

I stand in support of SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all community members in CT regardless of age or status.

Thank you for your time,  
Emily Goddard  
Yale School of Public Health, MPH Candidate